

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00620 131851Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 /018 W
-----132117Z 052444 /70

R 130900Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1304
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, BGEN, PK
SUBJECT: PRODUCTION OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AT SIALKOT

REF: STATE 130825

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE IN LAHORE.
1. SIALKOT, CENTER OF PAKISTAN'S SURGICAL INSTRUMENT
INDUSTRY, IS A FAIRLY LARGE CITY ABOUT 75 MILES (2 AND 1/2 HOURS
BY ROAD) NORTH OF LAHORE. SURGICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIA-
TION LISTS 135 MEMBERS IN SIALKOT, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO
CONGEN'S ESTIMATE, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 500-700 PRODUCERS
OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS BECAUSE MANY ARE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
WHICH MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS THROUGH THE LARGER MANUFACTURER/
EXPORTERS.

3. IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EXPORT OF SURGICAL
INSTRUMENTS HAS NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY RECENT
POLITICAL EVENTS AS MOST ARE EXPORTED BY AIR FROM
LAHORE AND HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO KARACHI PORT
STOPPAGES AND BOTTLENECKS OR BY LONG-DISTANCE ROAD TRANSPORT
SLOW-DOWNSM THE IMPORT OF RAW MATERIALS FOR THE INDUSTRY
MAY HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED OVER PAST THREE MONTHS, BUT LARGER
MANUFACTURERS USUALLY KEEP SIX-MONTHS' SUPPLY ON HAND.
NORMAL IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIAL SHOULD NOW RESUME. OVER PAST
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HALF MONTH SIALKOT HAS EXPERIENCED FREQUENT CURFEWS (WHICH
ARE NOW LIFTED) WHICH HAVE AFFECTED ABILITY OF WORKERS TO GET
TO JOBS. THIS PROBABLY HAS TEMPORARILY LOWERED PRODUCTION.

6. THERE HAS BEEN A LOSS OF LABOR FROM THIS INDUSTRY OVER
THE PAST FEW YEARS BECAUSE OF ATTRACTIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUN-
ITIES IN THE ARABIC GULF STATES. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT

THIS EXODUS, WHICH AFFECTS MANY INDUSTRIES IN PAKISTAN, HAS BEEN INCREASED BECAUSE OF RECENT POLITICAL TROUBLES.

5. BEST OFF-THE-CUFF ESTIMATE WE HAVE HERE NOW IS THAT BECAUSE OF RECENT DISRUPTION, PRODUCTION OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS THIS YEAR MAY REFLECT A DECLINE, BUT NOT MORE THAN ABOUT 10 PERCENT, AND THAT NORMAL RATES OF PRODUCTION SHOULD NOW RESUME.

6. WE WILL REPORT ANY MORE INFORMATION RECEIVED. MEANWHILE, IT WOULD HELP US IN FOCUSING ANY ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES WE MAKE IF DEPARTMENT COULD GIVE US REASONS BEHIND DEFENSE LOGISTIC OFFICE AND ALAN SCOTT INDUSTRIES INTEREST.

7. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
GAMON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770664/aaaacdsu.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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